

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of making an oligonucleotide array comprising:

- a. providing an array of porous polymer gel pads on the surface of a solid support;
- b. adding an oligonucleotide probe to each of said porous polymer gel pads;
- c. freezing said array of porous polymer gel pads comprising said oligonucleotide probes to produce a frozen array; and
- d. drying said frozen array of porous polymer gel pads for a time sufficient to increase the pore size of each of said porous polymer gel pads.

Claim 2 (previously presented): An oligonucleotide array of freeze-dried porous polymer gel pads on a solid support, comprising a specific substance bound to each of the porous polymer gel pads, prepared using the steps of claim 1.

Claims 3–5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein said freezing is at liquid nitrogen temperatures and said drying is by sublimation.

Claim 7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (currently amended): ~~The~~An array produced by the method of claim 1, wherein said oligonucleotide probe is a DNA probe.

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~The~~An array produced by the method of claim 1, wherein said oligonucleotide probe is an RNA probe.